

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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P 091655Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1214
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14747

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, FR, EAIR
SUBJECT: AIR FRANCE CONSIDERATION OF OFFICE IN EAST
BERLIN

REF: A) STATE 111523, B) BONN 6450, C) PARIS 12383,
D) BONN 8463

1. IN RESPONSE OUR DEMARCHE MAY 5 ALONG LINES REF A
QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TIMSIT WAS
SUBSTANTIALLY LESS POSITIVE THAN SHE HAD BEEN IN PRE-
VIOUS CONVERSATION (REF C) AS TO QUAI'S DETERMINATION
TO GO TO THE MAT OVER AN AIR FRANCE TICKET OFFICE IN
EAST BERLIN.

2. TIMSIT FIRST CITED PRECEDENT OF SIMILAR BRITISH
AIRLINES OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN WHICH ALLIES HAVE
EVIDENTLY TOLERATED. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HARD FOR
QUAI TO EXPLAIN TO AIR FRANCE THAT BRITS COULD DO
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SOMETHING FRENCH COULD NOT.

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, TIMSIT CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT
THE QUAI HAD ALREADY SPENT CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL
CAPITAL IN SINKING IDEA OF AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS TO
SCHOENEFELD. INFLEXIBLE OPPOSITION TO AN AF OFFICE IN
EAST BERLIN WITH STRICTLY LIMITED FUNCTION OF SELLING

TICKETS FOR THE BERLIN AND OTHER ROUTES COULD THEREFORE BE INTERNALLY COUNTER PRODUCTIVE AND UNSUCCESSFUL. ALTHOUGH GOF DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE, TIMSIT THOUGHT QUAI MAY THEREFORE NOT BE ABLE TO PREVAIL, PARTICULARLY SINCE SHE IS CONVINCED THAT SUCH AN OFFICE WITH LIMITED FUNDS WOULD NOT ENDANGER THE ALLIED CIVIL AIR REGIME.

4. TIMSIT PROMISED TO INFORM US WHEN DECISION IS MADE AND EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE ALLIES THROUGH THE CIVIL AIR ATTACHES IN BONN. SHE DID NOT THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUAI WOULD AGREE TO "CONSULT" IN THE BONN GROUP ON WHAT SHE CALLED SUCH A "MINOR" MATTER -- IN LIGHT OF PRECEDENT THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY SET.

5. ABOVE IS SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED BY REFTEL D JUST RECEIVED. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON QUESTION OF BRITISH OFFICE PRECEDENT IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO PURSUE ISSUE FURTHER.
HARTMAN

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